Amendments to the Specification

The second full paragraph on page 11 which starts with "Figs. 2A-2F" is amended as follows:

--**Figs. 2A-2F** show flow cytometric analysis of J^{int}J-Cβ_2 expression by mesenchymal cells. Mouse embryonic fibroblasts (MEF) (2E) and different MBA-13 cell strains (1-3; 2A-2C, respectively) were stained with preimmunized (histogram I) or immunized (histogram II) purified antibodies from rabbit serum. The rabbits were immunized with a synthetic segment of SEQ ID NO:2, namely SEQ ID NO: 37, with the sequence LAEPRGFVCGVE. As a second antibody, we used Fab FITC conjugated donkey anti-rabbit IgG. Staining with second antibody only gave a histogram shown in histogram III. Cells stained with rabbit polyclonal antibodies to irrelevant peptide 1121 of the sequence RGGGGGRGGLHD (SEQ ID NO: 85), similarly produced and purified,serves as negative control (histogram IV). Competition of antibody binding was performed by pre-incubation of the purified immune serum with the specific immunizing peptide SEQ ID NO:37 for 30 min at room temperature (2D, histogram). Competition with irrelevant peptide 1121 served as negative control (data not shown). The results of one experiment, out of three performed, are shown. --

The third full paragraph on page 11 which starts with "Fig. 3" is amended as follows:

-- **Fig. 3** shows RT-PCR analysis of the novel TCRCß2 cDNA including an inframe intronic J sequence designated J^{int}J-Cβ_2, obtained from MBA-13 mesenchymal cell line and fetal primary cell cultures. The cDNA was obtained from total RNA extracted from mouse embryonic fibroblast and different MBA-13 cell strains (1-3). RT-PCR was performed using the following sense pairs:

exonic Jß2.6: 5'-CTATGAACAGTACTTCGGTC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 69), or

5-CCCTAAATGGGAGAATACC (SEQ ID NO: 70); and

antisense primer Cß3: 5'-CATCCTATCATCATCAGGGGGTTCTGTCTGCAA-3' (SEQ ID NO: 72).

Products of 465 bp and 524 bp were produced, respectively. --

The first full paragraph on page 22 which starts with "The cDNA" is amended as follows:

--The cDNA of human TCR Jß2.3-Cß was amplified from cDNA from amniotic fluid cells and from cord blood mononuclear cells using the sense primer 5'CCGGAATTCCATGGGGCTCTCAGCGGTGG (SEQ ID NO: 73) and antisense primer 5' CGCGGATCCCTAGCCTCTGGAATCCTTTCTC (SEQ ID NO: 74) and ligated into EcoRI and BamHI digested and calf intestinal alkaline phosphatase-treated pEGFPC1 (Clotech, Palo Alto, CA). DNA sequence analysis of the GFP-TCR Jß2.3-Cß. confirmed the intended reading frame. Proceeding from the N to C terminus, the resulting fusion protein consists of GFP, a linker sequence of 10 amino acids, and TCR Jß2.3-Cß. --

The last paragraph on page 25 which starts with "Total RNAs" is amended as follows:

-- Total RNAs were reverse transcribed to cDNAs by incubating purified total RNA at 37 °C for 60 minutes in the presence of MMLV (SEQ ID NO: 86) reverse transcriptase. The primer pairs used for CD3ε were as follows: sense primer, 5'-TGCCCTCTAGACAGTGACG- 3' (SEQ ID NO: 75) ; and antisense primer 5'-CTTCCGGTTCCGGTTCGGA-3' (SEQ ID NO: 76). The TCP derived primer pairs used were as follows:

Cß5: 1'-ATGTGACTCCACCCAAGGTCTCCTTGTTTG -3' (SEQ ID NO: 77);

Cß5: 2'- AAGGCTACCCTCGTGTGCTTGGCCAGGGGC - 3' (SEQ ID NO: 78);

Cß5: 3'- CATCCTATCATCAGGGGGTTCTGTCTGCAA-3' (SEQ ID NO: 79);

Cß5: 5'- CATCCTATCATCAGGGGGTTCTGTCTGCAA-3' (SEQ ID NO: 80);

Cß5: 6'- TTCAGAGTCAAGGTGTCAACGAGGAAGG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 81);

Cα1: 5'- AAGATCCTCGGTCTCAGGACAGCACC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 82);

Cα2: 5'- ACTGTGCTGGACATGAAAGCTATGGATTCC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 83) ; or

Tm: 5' - GATTTAACCTGCTCATGACG -3' (SEQ ID NO: 84) .--